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**A Breife Narration of
the possession, dispossession, and, repossession
of William Sommers: and of some pro-
ceedings against Mr John Doxrell preacher,
with answers to such objections as
are made to prove the pretended
counterfeiting of the said
Sommers.**
(.)



**Together with certaine depositions
taken at Nottingham concerning
the said matter.**

Anno M. D. F C V J J J.

William Chidlow oweth 4 to books

Committed by the Honorable the Lordes of the Privie Counsell
 in the last Parliament at London the xxij. of March 1554.
 The xxij. of March 1554.



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THE FIRST PART OF THE

question, and for so long time to be ventilated, and sifted into
 as it hath bene. Doubtes, as we haue experience of our dul-
 nes in apprehending, and profitablie meditating vppon other
 maruelous acts of the Lord dailie shewed before our eyes, so
 if this work had not bene mightilie impugned, we should also
 haue negligentlie slipped it ouer, and the residue of like nature
 of late perfozmed, without yeelding such due honour to God,
 and to the powerfull exercises of prayer and fasting, as apper-
 tainerth. Albeit God thus turneth the rage of man to his glo-
 rie, yet I would advise them who slander this work, ad perse-
 cute the serbâthes of God, without cause, to take hede lest they
 be found eue fighters against God. For he that sitteth in the
 heaven sees their deuises, and laughs them to skorne and
 they, and all theyr conspiracies, plots slaunderingh, and re-
 belingh shall consume like a snail that melteth but this might-
 tie work, seing it is of God, and was without question a deede
 done according to the witnes giuen vnto it, cannot be reversed
 or destroyed, but mager the malice, and subtiltie of the De-
 vill though M^r Dorell should be consumed to ashes the truth
 thereof shall breake forth as the light, and the glorie thereof
 as a burning lamp. God hath lighted a candle, not in a cor-
 ner, but hath advanced it as it were on a candellstick in the
 heart, or center of our land, that the beames thereof might shi-
 ne forth, and give light to all the Realme. It is not in theyr
 power (though it hath bene given out by a greate man among
 them, that seing they have taken it in hand they will have the
 credit of it) altogether to eclipse, or whollie to hide it vnder a bush
 hell when they have had theyr swinge but a litle, they wil be
 of hamed of theyr owne follie. Nowe till the time appointed be
 expired, let all faithfull hearted men beware, lest they take
 Gods name in vaine by baselie esteeming of this mightie work
 or beare false witnes against theyr neighbours, in crediting
 lying rumours against those men of God who doe nowe, or
 hereafter shall suffer in this holie cause. I praise, consider with
 me a litle these circumstances, and proceedings, and indiffe-
 rentie

4
 Judges became parties, pleaders, and accusers: Some stor-
 med that anie should be present as witnesses to their doings:
 They would not suffer one of the depositions to be read before
 them: the Commissioners, and deponents, were contempt-
 vously rejected: charge given that no copies of the depositions
 should be divulged. Committance was threained to diuerse,
 onely because they tooke acquaintance with M^r Moore.
 saying noie ought to be countenanced, that was disgraced be-
 fore them. M^r Dorell having but one copie of the depositions,
 he delivered it vnto them for theyr satisfaction, and though
 they gave him promise that it should be returned, when his
 wife required it, they menaced her to Bridewell. There hath
 bene running to the court to forestall the Lords, and Ladies of
 honour, and to hinder the prefering of petitions in M^r Dorells
 behalfe to the right honorable Lords of the privie Coun-
 sell. And because Thomas Darling a boie of Burton vppon
 Trent of the age of 15. Yeares, or thereabouts had bene dispos-
 sessed by prayer vppon advise taken from M^r Dorell, (as ap-
 peareth by a booke published some yeares agoe): in hatred of
 M^r Dorell the bookes were called in, and the printer impris-
 oned as if he had published a fined matter. M^r Bainbridge,
 a Gentleman of good reckoning in Darbie shire was requi-
 red by the Bishop of London to shewe his opinion touching
 the sayd Darling, he answered it was the common voice of
 the cuntry, which he beleevved to be true, that he was in deede
 possessed, and dispossessed: the Bishop told him in great an-
 ger but that if he had not heard well of him, he would clapp him
 in prison for so saying. Thus having delt which the printer,
 and M^r Bainbridge, then he thought meete to examine the
 matter: belike to see whether he had done well or not, thus to
 determine, and then to heare. So he sent a Pursivant for the
 bope of Barton. The Pursivant having receyved 40^s. of the
 bopes friends: the bope was kept in the Bishop of Londons
 house: and committed to the tuition of M^r Harsenet who la-
 telie had bene vomited out of Cambridge for his erroneous
 opi-

Thou shalt here receive (Gentle Reader) a short
 narzation of a large matter, together with certaine de-
 positions taken at Nottingham, tending to the mani-
 festation of a marvelous work of God, latelie shewed among
 vs; written (as it seemeth) by some friend of this cause, and of
 the witnessses thereof: to staie if it maie be the malice of some,
 and rashnes of others, who will not be reclaimed from impug-
 ning, or baselie esteeming of this glorious work, a greater then
 which, hath scarce bene heard of (saving performed in like
 cases) eyther in our daies, or in the daies of our fore fathers for
 manie yeares. If it were particularlie ad fullie discovered (as
 we wish it might be) howe strangelie this William Sommers
 came to be possessed by meanes of a witch in Worcester shire,
 who sent a wicked spirit into him, witch he called Lucie: ho-
 we he was tormeted during his possession: howe the foule spi-
 rit raged, and the Lord Jesus prevailed at his dispossession:
 howe he was subtilly tempted, ad easloones repossessed: howe
 extraordinarie he hath caried himselfe since his dispossession:
 howe the Devill hath busied himselfe against the servant of
 Christ Jesus, who was the chiefe meanes of the dispossession:
 and howe some persons trulie other wise fearing God, have
 bene incredulous, some vppon one fanisie, and some vppon an
 other: speaking Iere. 23. 16. by vision out of their owne heart,
 ad not from the Lords mouth: or els giving credit to this work,
 and the witnessses thereof have not taken it to heart, much les
 boughsafed to visit, comfort, and relieve them, or to vse some la-
 wefull meanes, and mediation to our godlie Magistrates, (as
 they should) in the behalfe of the men of God they brethren
 whom God hath honoured to suffer for the testimonie of this
 his hoke truth: If (I saie) all these things were fullie disco-
 vered, and well weighed, doubtles a man must needes be asto-
 nished, and expect a rarer event of these things then can be per-
 conceived. By the waie the providence of our mercifull and hea-
 venlie father is to be wiselie observed, ad with greate humilitie
 to be reuerenced, that he hath suffered this matter to be called in
 A ij ques

gentle iudge with whom the right standeth. **M^r Dorell** and
M^r Moore who are now imprisoned for giving testimonie to
 this truth, have bene both of them for manie yeares aproved
 godlie ministers, iust, and simple hearted men, fearing God,
 of good reputation among the best Christians, and painfull
 preachers where they lived. God hath marvelously blessed
 they joint labours in dispossessioning seven persons together in
 Lamal hire: which is so notorious, and free from challenge, as
 the enemies to this Action of Nottingham dare not once to call
 yt into question. The Papists take knowledge of the pos-
 session, and dispossession in Lamal hire: but they would fayne
 have vs beleve that they seminarie Priests were the ones
 lie actors: Hea this phansie hath take such impressio in them,
 that some of them have not doubted to saie, if it can be proved
 that **M^r Moore**, and **M^r Dorell** did performe that work, they
 would disclapme they religion, and imbrace ours. They that
 have accused, and prosecuted, against **M^r Dorell** be men
 that have blasphemed the Scriptures, Popish persons, and
 knownen enemies to the preaching of the Gospell. The wrath
 of God is allreadie gone forth against one of **M^r Dorells** gre-
 attest enemies, namelie **M^r Sale** Officiall of Wesson whose
 child is latelie vexed with an evill spirit: bycause (as his wife
 reporteth) he hath bene adversarie to **M^r Dorell**. The pro-
 ceedings against him, and others have bene verie violent. He
 was put to silence by the Arch-Bishop of York without
 sufficient cause warzanted by lawe: ad as if this had bene too
 litle to be deprived of the vse of his ministerie, and of his live-
 lihode, having a wife, and five childzen: he was called before
 the Commissioners of Canterburie province: ad without hea-
 ring, or examining his cause was sodainlie committed. Brought
 before the seate of justice: they who at the same time gave gent-
 le audience to Papists, Arrians, Atheists, and blasphemers,
 would not permit him to speake anie thing almost in his owne
 defense: but (as though he had bene the most danable wretch
 in the world) before anie conviction exceedinglie reviled him.
 A iij Jude

opinions. None of the boies friends might be suffered to co-
 me vnto him. He was allured by promises: terrified by thre-
 attings: as that he should be hanged as the Burgonion was
 whom they shewed vnto him, hanging at Londo, all a daie long
 for a murder: Also that he should be whipped, and laid in
 Newgate. He was close prisoner in a chamber two daies,
 the boie of Nottingham appointed for his keeper, who with
 the prophane serving men were alwaies skorning at him be-
 ing a straunger among them: letters were contrived in **M^r**
Dorells name vnto him willing him to acknowledge a coun-
 terfept possession: and letters were returned by him whereyn
 he protested the truth, and would not in anie sort be removed
 from it. All this was practized to heape shame, if it might be
 vpon **M^r Dorell**: but when they perceived that the power of
 God in the boie was stronger then the malice of Satan, they
 let him goe: but I doe not heare that the 40. shillings was a-
 gaine restored. Not finding anie help herein to prove **M^r Do-
 rell** a practitioner in counterfepting which this boie of Bur-
 ton, a Commission was directed to five persons in Notting-
 ham, (Satan could not have wished better): that is to the
 verie same men who have persecuted **M^r Dorell** at Notting-
 ham, York, and London ever since this matter came in que-
 stion. This was to encounter the former depositions taken by
 vertue of a Commission awarded from York as is set forth
 in this treatise. It fell out that Robert Cooper the Clerk of
 S^t Maries in Nottingham caused the 94. Psalm to be song
 before these Commissioners sate in Commission, which being
 done of purpose, or vnawares, (I knowe not) but sure it is,
 it so galled them, bycause it describeth the like practizes of old
 as they now had in hand, that the pooze man was fetch vp
 to London for this heinous fact. These proper Commissio-
 ners refused such as were willing to iustifie the truth vppon
 they othes, they picked out whom they listed, and wrote
 what pleased them. When they were to examine **M^r Aldridge**,
 and his Curate they caused them to swear that they would
 A iij not

not reveale unto anie others the things whereof they should
be deposed. What goodlie stuffe they have returned, time and
malice will make knowne unto vs. Yet all this being not suf-
ficient to obscure, and suppress the work of God, if anie man
about Nottingham doe saie that Sommers was possessed,
and dispossessed, he is threated to be bound to the good beha-
vour. Behold and wonder at the violence of these men. Doe
ye thinck that if they had a good matter in hand, they would
be halfe so zealous. O Lord, (if it be thy good will) open theye
eyes, and turne theye hearts that they maie see and comprehend
this great and wonderfull work which thou hast done among
vs, that the faith of vs all maie be strengthened, our loue to thee
and thine Embassadors increased, Satan confounded, and
our sinfull liues amended to the great praise of thy holie name
and our everlastin comfort in Christ Iesus. Amen.

G. CO.

A. BREL

A BREIFE NARRATION OF THE POSSESSION,
dispossession, & repossession of w: Sommers, & of some proceed-
ings against Mr IOHN. Dorrel preacher, together with an-
sweres to such objections as are made to iustifie, or shew the preten-
ded counterfeiting of the said Sommers.



William Sommers of Nottingham: of
the age of 19. or. 20 yeares, about the beginning
of October 1597. began to be strangeliie torment-
ed in bodie and so continued for diuerse weekes,
to the great astonishment of the beholders, and
trouble of his frends: and gaue great tokens that
he was possessed by a wicked spirit, wherevpon

the MAIOR and some of the Aldermen of Nott: vnderstanding that
Mr Dorrell, a minister of Gods worde dwelling in Asbie de la
zouche, had by prayer and fasting restored 8. or 9. persons that in
like sort had bene vexed, did instatlie send for the said Mr Dorrell to
come to Nott. to bestowe some paines about the said Sommers: which he
refused sundrie times to yeeld vnto: because he tooke vpon him no
greater power in such cases, then was incident to anye godlie minis-
ter, or other persons; which onelie was to intreat the Lord in the name
of Christ Iesus to dispose the wicked spirit out of the possessed per-
son: yet by the importunate letters and messengers he condescen-
ded to their desires. And came to Nott. the 5 of Nouember in the
yeare aforesaid: hauing neuer before that time (to his knowledge)
seene the said Sommers. The 7. daie of Nouember, being Mon-
daye, was appointed for the exercise of prayer, and fasting, to the end
the said Sommers might be dispossessed: which Allmightie God.
onelie at the prayers of Mr Dorrell, and others to the number of
150. persons brought to passe. Wherevpon Mr Dorrell was retain-
ed preacher in Nott: that populous towne, hauing had no settled
preacher before this time since the beginning of her Maiesties re-
gna. Sommers being dispossessed, he discovered certaine witches;
whereof one was called Doll freeman, allied to one freeman an
Alderman of Nott: This freeman offered that his kinswoman should
be called in question, threatened Sommers that he was a witch: lat-
ting to his charge some presumptions tending that waie. Sommers
was committed to prison, where the Deuil appeared vnto him in
likenes of a mouse: threatening that if he would not let him reenter,
and would not saie that all that he had done touching his tormen-
ting during his possession was but counterfeite, then he should be
hangd: but if he would yeeld to him, he would save him. Thus a
new stipulation being made betwene them, the Deuill entered: And
afterwards Som: still pretended that all which before he had done
was onelie counterfeite. Yet this notwithstanding, vpon his re-
possession he was as horrible (spite of his face) tormented as befo-
re, as appeareth by diuerse of the Deponents, if the time when the

* That the
Deuill be-
areth to re-
enter is
proved by
mat. 12. 42.
and Luke.
9. 25. and by
experience.
and from
Christians
de Dauid
mactis part.
4. caput. 1.
sect. 6. 7.

things which they deposed were done, be well observed. To search into the truth hereof a Commission was awarded from the highe Commissioners for the province of yorke, to certifie the matter, to 12. principall persons of account there about. Mr Doyrell had taken the names of threescore persons: who were readie to haue bene deposed touching the extraordinary handeling of the said Dom. 17. of them being sworne, examined, and thei depositions take Dom was called before the Commissioners to be examined himself, whether he had counterfeited, or not. He told them, all that he did, was but counterfeit. The highe Sheriffe exhorted him in the name of God to tell the truth: then sodenlie Dom. was violentlie cast into one of his firs before them all where he wallowed by and downe the chamber where they sate, in a ferefull manner. There were pins thrust deepe into his hand, and leg, to trie if he did counterfeit: but he was senseles, and no bloud followed. At length being recovered as out of sleepe: they asked what he had done. He said, he could not tell: whether he had not bene pricked with pins, he said, yes: they asked where, and he shewed the wzong hand: when he was examined, howe the hole came in his other hand which had bene pricked he said it was there before: being demaunded, why he fell downe? he answered, a qualme came ouer his stomach. Then he was conuied awaie: and being absent he was worse tormented then before. They brought him back againe to knowe if he would confesse, who perswaded him to saie, he had counterfeited. As he should haue gone by a paire of staires, through a gallerie, if he had not bene hindzed, he had cast himselfe headlong ouer the gallerie, to haue broken his neck. When he was the second time brought before the Commissioners, he was moze terrible handled then before, in so much that the Commissioners, and all that were present were fullie satisfied, that he the was corporallie possessed: and surcessed to examine and moe witnesses Mr Walton Archdeacon of derbie being present, and a principall enime to Mr Doyrell acknowledged it was the finger of God vpon this rare accident. Then was generallie great reioicing in Rott: in so much as it had pleased God thus to manifest the truth when it came to triall. After, the Commission was returned to Yorke, and Dom. committed to the custodie of certain honest persons where he was still tormented as before; and in his firs delivered, how the Devill had appeared vnto him in prison in likeness of a mouse as afore sayd: and howe the Devill and also certaine persons had advised him to saie, that he vvas but a counterfeyt, and vwhat promises they made vnto him. Also he told of things that hapned at that time elsewhere without having knowledge from auncie. Which things were taken in writing by some that heard him: and they are readie to be deposed thereof, if they might be suffered. And being come to himselfe he did confesse his possession; and gave himselfe bodie, and soule to the Devill, if he did counterfeit. The Arch-Bishop of Yorke after the depositions came to his hands was satisfied that in deede Dom. was possessed. Yet having receiued letters

One of these is a great persecutor of Mr Doyrell and is suspected to be a witch.

letters from some great personages/ he tooke occasiō to silence Mr Doz: pretending this onelie cause, that Mr Dozrell should hold that the Devil might be dispossessed by praier, & fasting. Which yet he told him was his private opinion, and that he would willingly alter it, if he might be better informed. But the A. B. neuer endeavored to informe him better: But after good words, as that he was an honest man, etc sent him awaie silenced. The matter thus apprehended at pozk, the Commissioners of the province of Canturburie convented Mr Dozrell befoze them: he appeared a for the date and being vled with hard speeches, was sent to the Gatehouse. Som: was brought vp to London, and committed to a barber of East Smithfeild, a man of evill report. And afterward was take into the Bisschop of London his house. The matter was so well handled that Som: persisted in saying that he had bene a countersept: and at length seing this to be so plausible, grewe to be so impudent, that he said Mr Dozrell had hired him to countersept, and had bene arguained with him 4. yeares befoze, and caused him to practise his fears in Ashbie park: and informed him after his coming to Port: howe he should demeane himselfe in time of his dispossession. All which Mr Dozrell vppon his othe denied, but Som: bare word (nowe growne to be a man of great credit, though he had confessed himselfe, heretofore to have bene a countersept) was better beleued then Mr Dozrell a godlie, and faithfull man, of honest conversation, long approved by the best Christians, and ministers where he lived. But Mr Dozrell for a weeke was hereby vpon close prisoner. And at length againe he was convented at Lambith. Where taken vp with hard speeches: as if all that Som: had said was true, he not being suffered to answer for himselfe, and the depositions wiche might best shewe the matter being taken awaie, and deteined from him, was remanded to the prison: where he perlieth, till it please God, his cause maie be heard. Nowe to the end that it maie appeare vpon what ground Mr Dozrel hath bene thus handled, and taken vp with speeches, as, the most impudent varlet that euer came before them: as, heretick, a Deuil, one that had seven Deuils: that he should be the Devils murther, & either recant, at Pauls, crosse, or be burnt in Smithfeild, & such like: for this cause, and for the better clearing of the truth: I will deliuer such objections, as haue bene made against him, wih evident answers (as I hope) to everie of them.

There haue bene manie counterseits: therefore Som. did counterfeit 1. a question

This followeth not. for we maie with as good reason saie, manie haue not countersept: therefore Som: did not countersept. Ans. 1.

2. There could neuer anie man countersept such things as Sommers in truth hath done.

Sommers himselfe said he did counterseyt.

2. objections

1. Sommers likewise said, he did not countersept: yea gaue him self bodie and soule to the Devill: if he did countersept: as wilbe de- Ans. 1.

posed: whp should he not be beleueu aswell with an excretion deni-
ing, as barelie affirming he did counterfeit?

2. **Somn.** is not to be beleueu when he affirmeth an impossibilitie,
for it appeares by the depositions that he did such things, as by hu-
mane power without the Deuill are not possible for him to doe

3. **Somn.** for feare he should be counted a witch said he did counter-
feit, as appeares in the narration, and nowe perceiuing that this is
well pleasing to some great personages, he doth moze ipudentlie stand
in defence of it.

4. If **Som.** did counterfeit, he is to be burnt as a blasphemmer for
saying that he was God, Christ, and that he made Baptisme. And
if he be not punished, we must conclude he did not counterfeit. Els
men will imagine that the reuered fathers would tollerate blasphemy:
hetherto he hath bene rather rewarded.

3. ob.

Sommers owne confession is more to be credited, then all the Depo-
ners: he best knoweth what himselfe did: the depositions are not
worth 2 D. the Commissioners simple men.

Answer.

1. **Sommers** being in his fits knewe not what himselfe did, or, said
or was done vnto him, as hath bene confessed by himselfe, and is de-
posed, and further maie be.

2. There can no exception be taken against the witnesses: if it were
in case of his treaso, or in matters concerning anie mans life, or lands
in England: so manie, and such witnesses are sufficient in anie other
court of justice in England. 6 of the Commissioners were in degree
of Esquires, or better: the residue (saue the **Matoz** of **Mott**: a verie
simple man) were men of learning: they can not be noted of partial-
tie saue such of the, as were enemies to **Mr Dorrell**. for the others
if there be fault in them, let them be sent for, and punished. But it is
not like that anie shal be called till moze indifferencie be procured, but
such onelie as will seeke rather to obscure then to reueale the truth
of these proceedings

4. ob.

Ans.

Sommers can act all those things againe that are deposed.

1. If he can act them all in such maner, and forme as is deposed,
then he is, either still possessed, or more then a man: for no humane
power can doe the like.

2. Let him be brought before some indifferēt persons, let the depo-
sitions be read, and let him act the same in such maner, and forme as
is deposed, by naturall, or artificiall power, then **Mr Dorrell** will
peeld that he did counterfeit. If he cannot, (as vndoubtedlie he can-
not,) then pleade no longer for the Deuill: but punish that imp. of
Sara as a wicked lier, and blasphemmer of the mightie work of God

5. ob.

He saith he seemed to be stronger then, 4. or 5 men in his fits, by-
cause he looked rerriblie, & they were so afraid they durst not use
their strength vpon him.

Ans.

It appeareth, by the depositions of **Robert Aldridge**, **Thon wood**
Joane Pie, **Thon Strellie**, **Richard Mee**, and **William Langford**,
that they, and others laboured wih all their might, and strength so
as they

as they sweat againe and could not rule him: he neither sweating, panting, nor changing colour.

It was an easie matter for him to trouble 3. or 4 persons, being caried aloft vpon their shoulders: such strength he can shewe againe.

It is deposed that being vpon his bed, and on the ground, and sitting in a chaire he was so strong, he could not be mastered by 3. or 4. persons joining together their vnted forces; as appeares by the depositions.

Where some saie he had a swelling in his bodie, it was nothing but the windcollick.

A strange collick that should run in a variable bignes betwene the flesh and skin vp, and downe his bodie, from leg to leg, the to his toe, bellie, eare, roote cheeke, throat, tongue, and eie, changing the colour of the eie, and making the part in wich it was inflexible, and heauie as yron. Yet if Mr Dorrell should by praer, and fasting cure such a collick, he ought rather to be reuerenced then reuiled.

But Som: denieth that it ran vp & downe his bodie in that sort.

It is deposed by eleuen witnesses: manie moe also wilbe readie to depose.

But where finde you that in Scripture? qd. My L: of London.

Mr Dorrell affirmed, there were twelue things deposed concerning Som: his possession, wich he could not possiblie counterfeit: he was suffered to produce the running of this limp vp and downe his bodie, for one of the wich was directlie proued by manifold witnesses. When som that had seene the depositions knewe this to be most certenlie deposed. they had nothing to object but: Where finde you that in Scripture. Whereby they shwe manifestlie, that some of the doe fight against the light of their owne conscience. for themselves knowing that Som: could not counterfeit this, neither could Mr Dorrel possible instruct him how to practise anye such feat, they had nothing in reason to answer but least by their silence they should seeme to be convinced and confounded, they obiect a matter nothing to the purpose, namelie that this is not found in Scripture. The weight of wich objection is this.

All impossibilities are found in Scripture: this is not found in Scripture: therefore this is not an impossibilitie. Who feeleth not the grossenes of this arguement. as if a mā might not name a 1000 things impossible to be perfozmed by W Som: wich yet are not to be found in Scrip: It is not possible for Som: to goe to Rome in an houre, yet this is not found in Scripture. It is not possible for Som: to touch the stars, yet this is not found in Scrip: no more surelie is it possible for Som: to counterfeit such a variable motion, as was euidentlie seene, and felt vpon his bodie though it be not to be found in Scrip. This one thing alone (if there were nothing els) is sufficient to conuince anye man whose heart is not hardned, that Som: did not counterfeit: much les could Mr Dorrell be accessarie to him in such iniquitie.

6. ob.

Ans.

7. ob.

Ans.

8. ob.

Ans.

9. ob.

Ans.

Such swelling is observed in others as a signe of possession, vide Thyrde demoniacis parr. 1. cap. 3. sect. 3. 10. objection.

Ans.

2. All the signes mentioned in Scrip: might more easilie be deluded by this conceit of counterfeiting. then this moveable swelling yet the Devill in those daies was not so wittie as to ascribe all possessions unto counterfeiting. But seeing men in this matter are growen more incredulous then heretofore. it hath pleased God beside the signes of possessions mentioned in Scrip: to give other signes also. more free from cavill to make his glorious works most appazant. and certen.

The killings that seemed to move vnder this coverlet, where he laie, was but the motion of his owne hand: One put his hand vnder the coverlet, & caught Som: hand moving.

1. If this be true then he had five hands in bed with him for there seemed to be five killings some time. as is deposed by Rob. Aldridge.

2. It maie be after the time that he pretended to counterfeit, some confederate of his might catch his hand vnder the coverlet to delude the former accidents.

3. This motion was. when Som: hands. and feete were held: deposed by Th. Graie.

4. Lastlie deposed; that the rising vp vnder the coverlet being felt, it peelded like a bladder full of winde when it is pricked: and filled againe as with winde: and some times it parted. like the foote of a killing.

11. ob.

Those things wich he told in his fits to be sayd and done in his absence, he vnderstoode by the people who were with him, that talked of such matters, supposing he heard them not.

Ans.

By the depositions it is playne, he spake of things done in his absence, at the instant when he spake them: as that of the examination of Millesent Horselere, and of Mr. Dorrells, and Mr. Abdrigg coming. unknowen to anye there present.

12. ob.

Where it is sayd, he spake, his mouth open, not moving tongue, chaps, &c. he can doe so againe: for gaping he can saie, hang, hang.

Ans.

It is deposed by Richard Betoto, he spake a continued speech, his mouth being wide open, his tongue drawne into his throte, uttering those words among others. Ego sum rex, ego sum Deus.

13. ob.

He can foame as he did before by keeping soape in his mouth, & working it with his tongue.

Ans.

Belike he brought this conceit from the barbary shop. It is deposed by Mr. Langford, that he continued his foaming the space of an houre, in such abundant maner, that the foame did hang downe from his mouth to his brest. notwithstanding it was continually wiped with clats, in such abundance. as is not able to be uttered by anye humane creature. not having receyved anye thing from 6 in the morning, till 5 at night to augment it.

When

When he threwe him selfe into the fire, he knewe there were some present speedilie to releue him.

14. ob.

He was throwen with such violence against the chimneie as they that were present thought his neck had bene broken: he could not so denlie be take out of the fier; for it is depose, he was of such weight as is not possible to anie naturall bodie: so as there were 3. or 4. forced to ioine in taking him by: yet he had not his haire singed: nor was himselfe hurt.

Ans.

When he fel downe before the Commissioners, it was done by the aduise of the Maior, and some of the Aldermen at Nott: vvhich persvaded him to it; and should have given him a vvarchvord, vvhich to rise vp, but it was forgotten: vvhich (alas) the poore boie was in great paines through the maiors forgetfulness.

15. ob.

1. Then belike the maior, and Aldermen were complotters in this counterfeiting: me thincks they should aswell be punished as Mr Dorrell.

Ans.

2. Could they by teaching, or he by practizing state the issuing of bloud when he was deepeste pricked with a pin. both in his hand, and leg? howe came it to passe that he had forgotten which hand was pricked? why did he purpose to counterfeyt, and yet would tell them, that he fell downe because a qualme came over his stomack, howsoever it is an easie matter to delude such as were absent by words, yet the Commissioners being choise men of the countrie, both for learning, and authoritie could not be deceyved by such a paltrie companion. For the matter was so apparant vnto them, that they held it superfluous to proceede anie further to examination of witnesses: in so much as Mr Walton the Archdeacon confessed it to be the finger of God: and shynck awaie as hamed, being convinced with the evidence, and demonstration of truth.

He saith, Mr Dorrell taught him to counterfeyt, & howe to behave himselfe at the dispossession.

16. ob.

1. This relieth vpon the axiome and infallible principle where vpon most of the objections are founded, namely this whatsoeuer Mr. Som: saith is true, he saith Mr Dorrell instructed him to counterfeyt etc. let them prove the proposition: and we will preld the Conclusion. As if a godlie minister were not better to be beleved vpon his othe, then the bare affirmatiō of a lewd boie whom they saie was a counterfeyt.

Ans.

2. If Mr Dorrell should saie, or sweare that Som: by his teaching can doe these things: he were not to be credited: for none can by teaching, or learning practise impossibilities. Therefore it is a mere vanitie to seeke to drawe Mr Dorrell into anie confederacie in this action, vnles they prove these witnesses to be all perjured persons.

3. Mr Dorrell never came to him but with companie finding also companie alwaies with him: he never (to his knowledge) did see him before the 5 of Novemb. 1597. as he hath depose.

D 113 4. Why

4. Why should Mr. Dorrell teach him to counterfeit more then others, whom he hath dealt withall in like cases of dispossession? especially the 7. in Lancashire? whereof 4 were vnder 12 yeares, troubled 2 yeares before he came to them; and 2 of them children to a gentleman of good credit; who was at 100 ll charges by occasion of their possession? and could not expect anye aduantage by giuing out that 6 in his familie were vexed by Sathan: the procurer of their trouble was indited and executed for coniuration: yet till this likewise be proued counterfeiting; a possession and dispossession must be held for granted.

17. Objection.

It is Poperie to holde there is anye possession since Christs time: and it is heresie to maintaine that the Deuill maie nowe be cast out by praier, & fasting. Miracles are nowe ceased: these are but deuices to maintaine your hypocritical fastings.

Answer.

To hold there are possessions, and maie be dispossessions by praier and fasting, is neither Poperie, nor heresie. If it be, why doe they not send for Mr. Iohn Ireton of Legworth a man knowne to be learned and sound in religion, as anye of them: who shamefullie confounded Archd: Walton in this question: and offered to maintaine the same in the Vniuersitie? there being in deede (as I am verilie perswaded) nothing in the Scripture, the Apologie, or articles of religion professed in England, nor in the armonie of Confessions, nor in anye sound Protestant Diuine to the contrarie. In this, and in other (a) questions it is fit to be knowe, wiche me learnd in the lawe do tel vs (b) that the Ecclesiasticall Commissioners ought not to determine anye matter to be heresie, but onelie such as hath heretofore bene determined to be heresie by authorite of the Canonical Scripture; or by the first foure General Councils, or anye of them; or by anye other General Counsel, whereyn the same vvas declared to be heresie by the expresse, & plaine vvords of the Canonical Scripture; or such as hath heretofore bene judged heresie by the Parleamer with the assent of the Clergie in the Convocation; as appeares by the statute made in the first yeare of her M.^{ties} reigne and the first chapter. There haue bene possessions before Christs tyme, wiche maie be seene by these things which are recorded of the (c) Exorcists among the Jewes, and of the (d) Oracles, Engastrimuthoj, and others among the Gentiles. Since Christs time there haue bene infinite examples testified by the (e) monuments of all ages. A thing so vsuall in the times of Antiquitie, since Christ, and his Apostles, that I marvell anye men who would seeme to be learned, and doe professe great reading, should beware theyr ignorance in such a triuiall matter. Hierome in vita Hilariom speaks of one Hilarton who dipossessed verie neare 200. persons. o mirting others I will

(a) Vt: Whether a Sith op, et Elder be all one in scrip. whether Christ suffe red in soule et.

(b) 1 Eli: 3 abeth, c. 1.

(c) Joseph. de antiq:

Mat. 12. 27

(d) Levit. 20

27. 1 Sa 28.

7. who had

the Devil in

tht. in then?

bellie: called

also Pythos

mists. Ad 16

16. 18. See

hereaf Orig

lib. 7. cont Cels: Chrys. hom. 29.

(e) Cyprian ad Deniet etc. de Idoloz: Vanitate. Orig. hom. 244

in Jos. la 2. lib. 4. Ca. 27. Justin. disp. cont. f. rroph. Chrysost. hom. 4. Athanas: de incarnat. August.

de temp. ser. 197. Cass. Coll. 7. c. 25. 27. Prosper de promiss. Gregor. dialog. lib. 1. c. 10. Zach. de operi.

bus. l. 4. c. 10. Martpr in 1. reg. 8. Melanct. in Epist. Gualt. hom. in Luc. 8. Heygeb. loc. com. f. 400.

Ches. Seueb. Giffard dialog. of with.

onelie alledge tertullia in his apologie, who made the like offer in
 his time, as was made of late by Mr. Hoze a godlie Minister, to
 the Bish: of London touching W. Som: for wich he was com-
 mitted to the prison of the Clinck. Let a man (sayth tertullian) that
 is vexed by a Devill be brought before your judgement seate: & ad the
 commandement of the meanest Christian, the spirite shal speake, &
 confesse himselfe to be an vncleane spirit. Let one of those folke be
 brought whom you thinck to be inspired of a God, &c. If he dare bie
 before a Christian, or if he confesse not himselfe to be a Devill, take
 the Christiā to be presumptuous, & let him die for it out of hand, &c.
 Nowe none wil speake his owne shame, but rather the which maye
 sound to his honour. Surelie they wil not tel you that Iesus is a decey-
 ver, or of the common stamp of men; or that he was stolne out of his
 grave, as hath bene reported vnto you: but that he is the power the
 wisdome, & the word of God: that he sitteth in heaven, & that he
 shal come to judge us. And on the contrarie part that themselues be
 Devils, damned for theyr naughtines, & wayting for theyr dreadfull
 dome: and this bycause that beyng afrayde of Christ in God, & of
 God in Christ they yeele to God & Christ, & to the servants of God,
 & Christ. And againe els where he saith, We doe not onelie despite
 the Devils, but also we binde them, & doe dailie traduce them, & ex-
 pel them out of men, as it is wel knowne vnto verie manye. Of coz-
 porall possessions also euen in these daies. We doe reade in credible
 histories of the west Indies.

Tertul-
 in Apo-
 log.

ad Scap.
 cap. 3.

Lirie & o-
 then.

But to seeke no further, there hath bene eident demonstration
 hereof in our owne land. Where the Symptomes, or signes of pos-
 session mentioned in Scripture have bene apparant in the parties
 possessed, as namelie: extraordinarie strength & knowledge, & tor-
 menting of the bodies, & Foaming, wallowing, beating of themsel-
 ves gnashing which the teeth, & casting into the fire, & such like.
 When the signes of possession, and dispossession have bene delive-
 red out of the Scripture, the verie same at the naming of them (the
 work corresponding with the word, sufficient to confound all Acche-
 lists) have at that instāt bene shewed in the persons affected, being
 themselves senseles, not remembzng after ward what had hapned
 vnto them. When the godlie men have called bypon the Lord to dis-
 possess the wicked spirit out of the tormented creature, he hath ans-
 wered, as it were from heaven, be it vnto you, as you have desired.
 Lastlie when Satan hath bene dispossessed, he hath (as the Scrip:
 sayre) walked in drye & barren places, seeking rest, but finding none:
 & returning back into the house frō whence he came, he hath appeared
 in diuerse shapes, perswading the parties by promises, and threat-
 nings to let him recuter. Some have peelded, as Jane Ashton
 in Lancashire, this Som: and others: and have bene greivouslie
 tormented as before without giving hope of recoverie: seeing our
 Saviour sayth, that in such case, the spirit taking 7. worse dwelleth
 there.

a Luk. 8. 29.
 b Luk. 8. 28.
 A. 16. 16. &
 19. 15.
 c Mar. 9. 20.
 d Mar. 9. 23.
 Mote this ye
 A thellis:

Mat. 12. 43.

Mar. 9. 25.

Mat. 12. 45.

there & of such is worse, then the beginning. Others haue repulſed him, and would not relent, either by this allurements or threatenings. Whereof he hath outwardlie in theſe bodie ſo pinched, ad tormētēd them, that they could not goe without halting ſor a good time after. Yet he being ſtill reſiſted in faith, hath after manie assaults ſurceaſed to trouble them anie further. The miraculous curing of fevers, palfaes, leproſies, and other diſeaſes by Chriſt, and his Apoſtles gave credit to the Goſpell: Yet the like diſeaſes remaine at this daie. Being therefore there maie be poſſeſſions at this daie, as beſore (ſor what hath bene done, that maie not againe be done, the Devill being as malicious, and powerfull as in times paſt) What ſhall we doe (ſaith P. Martyr) with them that be taken, and tormented with Devils, Shall we forſake them. Vndoubtedlie they muſt not be forſaken; yet we muſt not by adjurations commaund them to goe forth. Wherefore (ſaith he) we will uſe faithfull prayers for the recoverie of them. The like is the opinion of Phillip. Melanthon, and the godlie learned King of Schoth: men moze judicious, and better grounded in religion, then theſe that ſpeake at randome of Poperie, and of heresie. To remove the Devill by prayer and faſting is no miracle: this kind is not caſt out but by prayer and faſting, ſaith our Saviour. If God by prayer ſhould heale the ſaſting, ſickneſſe, or phrenſie, or ſhould graunt raine, drought, victorie, or ſuch like requeſts, where this a miracle? Chriſt, and his Apoſtles ſpake the word onelie (as the Centurion ſaith) and it was done: they commaunded, and it came to paſſe. The Diſciples had power giuen them againſt vncleane ſpirits, and to heale all diſeaſes. This in deepe was miraculous. But Mr Foxe, Mr Greenham, Mr Dorrel, Mr More nor others in theſe daies, neither challenge, nor haue anie power onelie in an extraordinarie caſe, wherein the Phiſitions ſaie there is *θουοτι*, ſomewhat diuine, or ſupernaturall. not curable by anie humane ordinarie ſkill, they uſe in extraordinarie, and ſupernaturall lawfull meane of cure, that is by long, and earneſt intreatie to beſeech Almighty God by mediation of Chriſt Jeſus, to releaſe the partie. This God hath done, and theſe men ſor our good are witneſſes hereof: and woe be to them who haue prebailed againſt Satan, and heard with theſe eares, and ſeene with theſe eyes the great workes of Almighty God, if they ſhould reliquiſh the truth of God, ſor the feare of man. Touching the ceaſing of miracles there is no determination thereof in holie Scripture: neither is that article in this action to be controverſed. Sure we are that the Scripture, the deitie, and all religion is by ſome among vs as much called in queſtion, as euer heretofore. The Eccleſiaſticall Commissioners can witneſſe, howe manie Atheiſts and blaſphemers haue bene brought beſore them, likewise there be ſome who call themſelves Chriſtians, and alſo

in 1 Reg. 8.

in Epist.
Demonologiae.

Mat. 17. 21.

Mat. 8. 8.
A. 16. 18.
Mat. 10.

so Ministers of the Gospell, who yet in theyr practized line Atheists, and make a scozne at the exercises of religion, as name-
 lie at preaching, praying, fasting, sanctifying the Saboth, reading
 the word of God, giving thanks at meate. vsing the phrases of the
 Scriptures and doe rebile, and hate others because they reframe
 from swearing lling, filthie speaking, gaming, plaies, and such
 abhominations of this age where in we liue. It is to be doubted,
 that neither the word, noz miracles can preuaile with those men.
 when God shutteth no man can open: when Lazarus was raised
 from the dead, manie beleived: but some were hardned, & complai-
 ned bypon our Saviour.

Though some sawe Christ visiblie rise from the dead, yet they stil
 doubted. Therefore all is to litle to vnbeleivers. The greater,
 and moze noble the woorkes of God be, the moze earnest is the De-
 vill in obscuring them. If there were no other prooffe hereof but
 this matter of Rottingham: it were sufficient to exemplifie vnto
 vs, the exceeding subtiltie, and malice of Sathan. For by dis-
 gracing this wonderfull woork of God, the powerfull preaching
 of the Gospell is hindzed in Rottingham, where it hath bene a
 stranger for manie peares: a number of people in that towne
 whose heath were opened hereby to receiue the Gospell are left
 to the wolfe: the holie exercise of prayer, and fasting are shame-
 fullie skorned: wicked and Popish persons are kindeilie intertain-
 ed: and highlie commended: the witnesses of Christ Iesus and
 enimies of Satan are ehill intreated: the Papiests opinion who
 hold that Satan cannot possiblie by the Ministerie of anie Pro-
 testant be dispossessed, is mightlie countenanced: the Atheists,
 and carnall Gospellers (who not knowing the power of gods
 lines, and holie exercises doe attribute all things to arte, chan-
 ce, or nature) are exceedingly hardned.

It cannot be indured that those kinde of men which be ac-
 counted the of scouring of the world should be thought to haue
 such interest in Christ Iesus, as that they (falselie termed)
 herball prayers, and hypocriticall fastings, he should, as it we-
 re visiblie descend from heauen, and tread downe Satan vnder
 theyr feete: where as other men who account themselves moze
 learned, excellent, and wise then they, doe not with all theyr
 Whisick, Aherthorick, pompe, and primacte accomplish the like.
 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, to con-
 found the wise, & the weake things of the world to confound the
 mightie.

THus much touching the objections which have bene made to prove the pretended counterfeiting of W. Demers. But howe by counterfeiting he could speake a quarter of an houre together his mouth being shut: howe he should stave his temples, and pulses from ad beating: howe his eye, hands, ad face should be unnaturallie black and turne by and by into theyn naturall colour: howe there should be extraordinarie smells in the place where he laye: howe he should violently be with great force cast against the prison bars, ad posts of the chimnies receyving no hurt: howe he could be taller then the highest man in Court: howe all his bodie should be as cold as ice, and heavie as yron: howe his face should be turned quite backward his necke throlwen round about without hurt unto him: howe he being naturallie weake should so oftentimes belabour so manie strong men, himselfe not panting, sweating, or changing colour: howe he made his tongue to swell to the bignes of a Calves tongue, and his eies as great as beasts eies: howe he should forget continuallie what he did, or was done unto him in his firs: howe his legs crooked with falls, should be inflexible as anie yron: howe the collick should run along all his bodie, in a variable quantitie: howe such a collick should be cured by prayer, and fasting: howe in his firs he should utter strange noises, which at other tymes he could not doe agayne, as is deposed: howe he did counterfeyt all these impossibilites, when the Sadducees, Galenists, and Naturalists of our time have considered of the matter, we will expect some newe objections furable in discretion to the former. In the meane season, Let him that is filthie, be filthie still: but doe Satan what he can, Wisedome shalbe justified of her children,

Surelie the rage of man shall turne to thy prayse:
Psalme. 76. 10.

Deposits

Depositions taken at Nottingham the 20.
of March. An. 1597. by vertue of a Commission
 granted from the right reverend father in God Ma^r
 thewe Archbiffhop of Yorke, and others her Ma^rs high Commis-
 sioners befoze John Cherrald Esquter highe sheriffe of the
 Countie of Nott. sr John Wypon knight, John
 Stanhop, Robert Markham, Richard Par-
 kings Esquires, Peter Clerk Maior
 of the towne of Nottingham.

Miles Leigh Officiall of the Archdeaconrie of Nott.

John Triton Parson of Legworth John Browne parson of
 Loughborough, Robert Evington parson of Roxmanton by-
 pon Doze, and Thomas Bolton, Ministers, and preachers
 of Gods Word.

Commissioners appointed for the taking of the same.

Thomas Hais of Kirkbie in Whfeild in the countie of Nott. Clerk, and preacher of Gods word swozne, and exami-
 ned, saith that being at Nott. bypon All Saints daie to
 attend bypon Dr Charles Candish, the said daie was in-
 treated to come to the house where William Sommers was, by
 the said Som. mother: and there found the said Som. wonderful-
 lie tormented, and at the name of Jesus suddenlie oftentimes cast
 on the earth, the one leg being bended crooked towards this exa-
 minant: not able to streighten the same. In which leg he saw some-
 thing run, and so out of that leg into the other: thence forth with
 into his bellie greatlie swelling the same, in so much that the same
 was much bowed bpwards: and when the same departed thence,
 he sawe it plainlie in his thypare, in his tongue, and in his cheeke ne-
 are unto his eare roore, appearing there as at that time he concei-
 ved the quantitie of the pelke of aneg and ling his hand bypon it,
 and taking it betwene his fingers found the same in softnes, and
 quantie to the pelke of an eg. And bein doubtfull what to thinck, of
 late of such a strange sight this Examinant went thence to Mr Ar-
 kinson of the same towne of Nott. with whom he had often bene, ad
 sent for such as were troubled with Melancholies, or temptations,
 to trie out some naturall cause, if he might. But after manie an-
 sweres of his touching convulsions, falling sicknesses, and such
 others, he could conceive none that might leade him to the fin-
 ding of a naturall cause. So he procured Mr Ebings, and Mr
 Aldredg the same daie to come to him, where in thepr prayers,
 and presences, he had diverse fits as befoze, giving out words, that
 it was no disease, but the Devil.

Thomas Hais.

At the na-
 me of Je-
 sus cast
 downe.
 The leg
 bound.

a running
 swelling.

No disea-
 se, but the
 Devil.

2 Robert Aldridg.

Running swelling.

A hollowish voyce.
Blasphemie.

Extrordinarie strength.

Knocking

5 Killings

2. Robert Aldrydge Clerk vicar of Sanct Maries in Rott: sworne, and examined sayth, that first he comming to William Somm: vppon Thurs daie being the 3 of November (as he thinketh) he found him lying vppon a bed, no bed clothes lying vppon him, but onelie his owne hose: ad sawe a thing running by his right leg to the quantitie of a mouse, and he calling vnto God by prayer, immediatelie it remobed out of the right leg, into the left, and laying his hand therevppon immediatelie it remobed into his bellie, where it did swell to a verie great quantitie, twise so big as his bodie as he thinketh, and from thence into his brest, and there it was the bigness of his fist, and from thence into his neck, and from thence vnder his eare, where it remapned in the bigness of a french wallnut, not changing his former colouz, and so remapned there for the space of a quarter of an houre: and the sayd Sommers lying vppon his back, his hands were holden by two there standing by the whole time this examinant was there.

And this examinant further sayth, that he heard in a strange hollowish voyce, that he was his, and this examinant answering sayd that he lied, he was Gods: and that he had made a promise vnto God in Baptisme to be his, then the voyce answered that he was God, Christ, and a king, & that he made Baptisme, & that he made him his by a newe Covenant, for he had given him 3. pen: & that it was in the boyes sleiue, which beingh searched, there was noone such to be found, then it sayd agayne that it was in his glove.

This Examinant also further sayth, that the sayd William Sommers: the xvij. of November last, from the houre of 7. off the clock, vnto 3. off the Clock in the afternoone off the same daie continued straungelie, and diuerselie beyed, and tozmented: ad had such strength as fife men had much a doe to keepe him downe during which time he exceded in swelling. stritching, roaring, and pelling verie fearefullie gnashings of his teeth, and foaming at his mouth. And also sayth that vppon the xviij. th of November betwixt 7. ad 8. of the clock in the morning, he went into the house of Robert Cooper, where William Som: lape to heare howe he had done the night befoze, and he standing in the hall heard a great knocking in the Parlour where the bope lape, and suddenlie he rushed in, where he found the bope alone in his bed, lying with his face vppward in his sit, with his mouth drawne awrie, and his eyes staringh as though they would have started out off his head. And this Examinant kneeling downe to prayer heard the knockingh agayne vnder his knees as he thought. And in the bed vnder the coverlet, he sawe the forme, and shape as it were of fife killings in quantitie to the belwe of his eye. And agayne this Examinant sawe the bed clothes at the feete to shake, move, and leape as the leaves of an Aspen tree shaken with the winde.

3. William

3. William Wynde of the towne of Nottingham taplour
 sworne, and examined saith that at his coming vnto the sayd
 Sommers he found Master Aldridge there (being vppon Fry-
 daie the fourth of November as this Examinant thinketh) and did
 see a swelling in his neck to the bignes off a great walnut, and from
 thence vnto the bone of the cheeke, and there was to the bignes of a
 great hasselnut: adfrom thence it remobed into his eye, ad the skin of
 his eye waxed black, and bycause this Examinant had heard befoze
 that he the sayd Sommers did countersept, he did lape his hād vp-
 pō the said swelling vppō the cheliebone which swelling did tremble
 like an Aspen leaf in a calme winde, and was verie soft, but in that
 place did not change his naturall colour.

3. w. Wynde.

The run-
ning, swel-
ling.

Eie skin-
black.

4. Thomas Westfeld in the countie of Nottingham Clerke,
 and preacher of Gods word sworne, and examined saith, that vpon
 Sondaye at night, being the 6. of November last passed (as
 he thinketh) being desirours to see the strange things which he had
 heard of the sayd Sommer: came thether with Maister Dorell to
 see him, where he found him with a great swelling vnder the left
 eare, to the bignes of a wallnut, and from thence it remobed into
 the eye, where it seemed not so greate, but caused a great blacknes in
 his eye, and vppon that this Examinant lapd his hand where he
 felt a certen moving, and his eye changed into his naturall colour
 immediatlie: and so changed 8. times betwixt 3. and 6. a Clock in
 the morning.

the run-
ning swel-
ling.

The eye
changed
colour 8.
times.

5. William Aldred of Colwick in the countie of Nottingham
 Clerk, and preacher of Gods word sworne, and Examined saith,
 that vppon the 6. of November last being the Saboth, Mr Thon
 Dorell, and diuerse other Ministers, whereof this Examinant,
 was one, together with the Major of Nottingham and others, be-
 ing about 7. of the clock in the Evening came into the house where
 the said Sommers was. And after prayers made to GOD, the
 said Thon Dorell exhorted with manie words all such whose
 hearts GOD should touch with his feare, to prepare, and assemble
 themselves the next daie against 7 of the clock in the morning, and
 to consecrate that daie wholie vnto the Lord with fastings and
 prayer, and so departed from them at that time. And the Mi-
 nisters withdrawing themselves, and conferring about the kee-
 ping of the said exercise, it was thought good that this said Ex-
 aminant should begin the next daie. There were assembled at
 the time appopited about an hundred, and fiftie Persons: and
 this Examinant beginning with prayer preached against the sins
 of our time. The boie in the meane time being tormented by fits
 in his bodie wonderfullie, as by heaving by his bodie by halting his
 lips awyre, one towards the one eare, and thother towards
 thother eare: opening his mouth wide, as if it were foures-
 quare, thrusting out his tongue, and putting it double againe
 into his

150. per-
sons pre-
sent

Mouth
distorted.

Tongue
doubled
into his
throat.

The fig-
nes ap-
peare ac-
cording
to the
word.

into his throat: with manie fearefull cries, and strikes and some-
times laie silent. This examinant having ended his sermon the abo-
ve named Jhon Doxrell began with prayer, at which tyme the
torments in the boie seemed to be doubled: and after exhortation to
the people ended, and the sayd Jhon Doxrell discoursing of the sig-
nes of possession as they be in order in the 9. of Mark, the verie
same signes there spoken of appeared most evidentlie in the sayd
William Som: in most terrible manner, for he stricken, and roa-
red with a lowde voyce, he fomed abundantly, he gnashed with
his teeth his bodie distracted severall wayes, and the preacher com-
ming to these wordes: all things are possible to him that beleeveth,
answere was made from the boie, thou liest, and with terrible coun-
tenance staring with his eyes, gaping with his mouth, stretched
out his hands with bended fingers like Eagles pounes towards
the preacher, as menacing him, with leaping up with his bodie,
and other threatening gestures, but that he was restrayned by his
keepers. And thus he continued the whole discourse of sayth. But
when he began to speake of the signes of dispossession, (as it follo-
weth in the same chapter) the sayde William Sommers was agai-
ne tortured with the former torments more forceable. And the said
Jhon Doxrell dilating vppon this speech. He came out out of
him, the sayd W. Som: made as though he would have vomited.
And the sayd Jhon Doxrell besought God to glorifie his worde,
and worke: then the whole congregation breaking thep hitherto
continued silence cried out all at once as it were with one voyce vnto
the Lord, to releve the distressed person: and with in a quarter of
an houre, or thereabouts it pleased God to heare thep prayers:
for the bodie of the boie was taken, and throwen thwart the bed
probeling, in which manner he laye as if he had bene dead for a sea-
son. The preacher then glorifying God, and willing the people to
be thankfull (the which being accordingly performed) the boie tur-
ned himselfe over, and vppon his knees rendered thanks vnto God
for his deliverie. By which time the sun being seth the exercise ended,
and the boie went home with his master.

His bodie
doubled
&c.

6. Joane Pie wife of Robert Pie of the towne of Mott: baker,
sworne, and examined deposeth, and sayth that about a weeke be-
foze M. Doxrell was sent for to come to W. Som: bring the Sa-
turdate befoze all Saintsdate at night this Examinat comming to
the house of Thomas Pozter where the boie laie, and after a while
he fell into a fit of laughing, and then presentlie he was thrown sud-
dentlie into the bedscete, his bodie doubled, and his head betweene
his legs: and then suddentlie he was plucked round vppon an heape,
as though his bodie had bene like a grate browne loafe, of a strike:
and so rolled in the bed, cast by from the bed like a ball, 3. or 4. times
together, about halfe a pards in height, the coverlet being so fast
wzapped about him, as all that were present had much a doe to pull
the

the cloathes from him: and this Examinant came manie times to
 the said Sommers, of purpose to see the accidents that did shewe
 his possession, wherein she desired to be satisfied. And this Exami-
 nant also saith, that about Allhallowtide, and manie others times
 she hath seene the said Sommers handled with such violence, as whe
 his fit had come, he could haue bene so strong as somtimes there ha-
 ue bene 4. oz; women, and could not hold him ling flat vppon the
 ground: and that notwithstanding all their force he could haue bea-
 tten his members one after an other, as his legs, armes, and head,
 as though he would haue beaten his head in peices, if he had don
 it in Gods name and that part, oz members wich the fit did possesse
 3 oz 4 could not hold it, oz bowe it. This Examinant further saith
 that on Allhallowe euen at noone, oz thereabouts, she with sundrie
 others, being with the said boie, he was sitting in a chaire about
 two pards from the fire side, and suddenlie was cast towards the
 fire, his head lighting vppon the pron that kept up the fire, ad one
 of his hands in the fire: and thep being 3 oz 4 taking him up to saue
 him from burning, thep could not set him in the chaire againe: for
 his legs were so bowed as thep could not not al streight them: and he
 so heauie, as thep could scarce list him, and that neither his head
 heire, nor anie part of his bodie was hurt, oz burned by the fire. ad
 she further saith, that there was a small line, wich tied up a painted
 cloth: wich was hung ouer the bed: to wich the said Sommi: stret-
 ched his hand, but could not reach it: ad then to thep imagination
 he seeming to excede the stature of the tallest man in the towne sud-
 denlie got his chin ouer the said line: and so with his hands plucked
 the line so fast about his neck, as that thep wich stood by had much
 a doe to saue him from hanging. She further saith that the boie in
 one of his fits (the night before Mr Dorrell came) said that Do-
 rrell was coming, when neither she nor anie other to her know-
 ledge had anie cerren intelligence that Mr Dorrell would come. for
 the messengers wich went for him brought answere, that he pur-
 posed not to come till the next weeke. And she also further saith, that
 the said Saturdaie wich Mr Dorrell came to the towne he was
 more extremelie handled then before: and that he late manie times
 with his mouth extraordinarilie boide, and strangelie open, and
 that he spake these words bz I wil use W: S his tongue, and mebers
 for 3 daies without moving, oz stirring his tongue, oz lips in spea-
 king ante of the said words. And that the speache was in the ordi-
 narie voice of W: Sommi: And this deponent further saith, that
 an houre and halfe before Mr Dorrells coming to the towne, the
 boie fell into an extreme fit in such manner as she, and those wich
 were present iudged verilie he was dead: for he laie senceles, and
 speechles, his eyes out of his head, like wallnurs: his face black in
 a strange manner, and all his members, and the parts of his bodie
 instantlie cold vppon the sudain by the space of an houre. And being
 asked when his fits were past, whether he remembered the extreme

extraor-
dinarie
strength

leg } massie
inflex-
ible.

Cast into
the fire.

leg bowed

though so
heave as
hardlie by 3,
or 4. taken
out yet va-
hurt.

extraordi-
narie sta-
ture.

extraord:
knowled-
ge.

Speache
without
moving
tongue,
or lips.

For dead.

No reme-
brance.

oz anie

Extraord.
knowvledg.

Strange smels
like brimsto
ac.

Running
swelling.

extraord.
knowvledg.

kielings.

knocking.

Nec troend
& mouth
drawne af-
de iminea-
surable.

or anie part denied, that he remembred anie thing, and that during the tyme off his extremitie they manie tymes endeuboured to recouer him by gibing him Aquavita, and other comfortable things, but it wrought nothing in him to revive him. And Mr Dozrell being come into the towne, the hope instantlie spake of it with these words: I have but a small tyme nowe to staye, but I will shortlie returne: And that Mr Dozrell comming in at the backside of the house without knowledge off the hope (as she verilie thinketh) the hope foztolde off his comming, ad he also had foztold of Mr Aldridg his comming at sundrie tymes. This Examinant sayth likewise that at diverse tymes when the hope was in his fits she hath felt smells like brimstone: and also sayth that being in his fits she hath seene a swelling in his foote, which remobed, from toe to toe, and so to his leg, and from thence in his bodpe to the bignes off a 3. penie white lease: and so to his thzoate to the bignes off a rat, ad vnder his eare to the bignes off a wallnut, and in his eye breez like a black clock, and so remobed from place to place. which this Examinant, and others have sensiblie seene, and felt. And this deponent further saith that after the tyme of his dispossession, the hope discovered by speech certayne which he named to be witches, amongst the rest he named one Milicent Dozselie, who dwelled at Bridgeford: which Maister Dozrel and Mr Aldred caried to Mr Parkins to be examined, and the hope about one of the clock in the same dape in his fits uttered these words. Nowe they have her, and are examining her: and she sayth she doth all by prayer, & nowe she is saying her prayer, and this was not knowne to this Examinant, or anie other then present to her knowledge. And she further deposeth, and sayth that at diverse tymes she hath heard a clapping in his bed, as though it had bene the clapping of 3. hands. and that she hath seene a motion in the bed, as though it had bene the creeping off 3. kielings, which she, and diverse others have endeuboured to take hold of, but never could, for when they have attempted the same: It hath vanisheb: and his hands and feete never sturring to thep sightis and that at other tymes, at his beds feete a knocking as though it were vnder the bed to thep vnderstanding: and in some of those extreme fits, he would crye, Nowe she comes, nowe she comes, nowe she wil breake my neck, and therevppon his neck was throwen about, as though it had bene broken, with his mouth drawne of the one side vimeasurablie, some tyme on thone side, and some tymes on the other.

7. Richard Newton of the towne of Nottingham glober, sworn, and examined sayth that he heraing off the straungenes off this extremities of the sayd Sommer: came vnto him with a full determination to vnderstand whether his straunge actions were countersepted, or not: and thought to satisfie himselfe with a full vnderstanding of the truth of the cause, and found he the sayd Som: in his fit: and heard him speake plaulie with a continued speech with

with his mouth wide open, his tongue drawne into his throte, so that there could be seene nothing of it but the rootes in his throte, neither lips, nor chaps moving: ad vttered this speech amōg others Ego sum rex, Ego sum Deus, with some other speeches, which he (this Examinant) could not vnderstand well for that he is no good Latineſt: and this was done in the sight of manie.

Speache
with mouth
open, his
tongue
drawne in-
to his throa-
te, neither
lips nor
chaps mo-
ving.

8. Henrie Ruffie of the towne of Rott: locksmith, ſwozne, and examined, deposeth, and saith, that he came vnto the said Dom: to wake with him: and about 10. or 11. of the Clock in the night, he sawe him with his mouth wide open: ad he spake certayne words vnto Ihon Wigan in Latin: which this Examinant vnderstood not, his chaps nor tongue moving, ad did so speake, ad this Examinant sawe these things evidentlie: for he came verie neare him to be- hold him.

Speech, with-
out mo-
ving chaps.

9. William Langford of the towne of Nottingham Chirurgiam ſwozne, and examined deposeth, and saith that it is true, that the same daie of his dispossessing being the 7. of November he did gnash, wallowe, and foame in such abundant manner, that the foame did hang downe from his mouth vnto his brest: notwithstanding it was wiped awape continuallie with clothes: and that he continued for the space of an houre: and that it was in such abundance, that this Examinant did not thinck it possible to be vttered off anie humane creature, and so much the moze he did marvell at it, for that the said Sommer had not taken anie thing from 6. of the Clock in the morning vntill 5. of the clock in the after noone to augmēt it anie waies: and that he did strike with 3. severall vopces so hideouslie, and so terrible as they were not like anie humane creature, but rather thone of them was like vnto a bull, the other like vnto a beare, and the third a verie small vopce, and such as this Examinant thinketh cannot be counterſepted. And this Examinant further saith, that the said Sommer did shewe extraordinarie strength: and speciallie vpon the 17. of Februarie last, when he this Examinant, a kisman of his, and one other servant to Mr Gate could not hold him: ad that then this Examinant felt his temples, and his pulses of his armes which had no motion: but was as he had bene senceles, and like a dead man: and that he was cold of all outward parts of his bodie: which he purposelie then did trie, for the strangenes thereof: neither did he extraordinarilie pant, or blowe, that this Examinant could perceiue. And this Examinant saith that he hath heard him make rime of the Scriptures, and heard him sing so small a tuneable voice, as that out of his fit he could not sing the like, as this Examinant made prooſe of, of verie purpose: and hearing him sing inanie times befoze in his perfect memori, he did neuer heare him sing with so smal a voice. And this examināt further saith that on the said 7. of Novē. last (with daie the said exercise for his dispossessio was appoin- ted) this Examinant came to the house of the said Thomas Porter,

Foaming
exceeding.

skriking hi-
deouslie,
like a bul, &
a beare & a
small voyce
vncounter-
ſeyt able

extraordina-
rie strength,
Feb. 17.

tem-
ples, { not
pulses, { bea-
ses, { ting.

a small tune-
able voyce.

Extraord.
knowledge.

5. or 6. with
much a doe
serie him.

the running
swelling.

where the saide W. Som. was, and there finding the said Som: vppon his knees pzaining, and with him some companie in pzayer, this deponent tolde serretlie some in the companie, that it was appointed that instantlie the said Som: was to be cōbried to the place where the sayd exercise was to be vsed: and therewith (without the vnderstanding of the said Som. by audible speech) he was cast sodenlie thwart vppon the bed: and this deponent with 5. or 6. others had much trouble (though they vsed the whole strength) to carie him to the said place, where the said exercise was appointed, and kept: and that this examinant habing onelie the guiding of his head could not continuallie keepe it by his strength: but sometime it was taken from him. He also saith, that vppon the saide 7. of November the said Som. being extremelie tormented, and toiled, and his buttons therewith opened he sawe a rising, or swelling in the bottome of his bellie, wich to his knowledge moved the clothes: ad his brest, and stomack being bare he sawe visiblie the same rising, or swelling in bignes of a goose eg, or a halfe penie white loafe, ascend vpp to his brest, and so to his throte, with wich he would haue offered, as though he would haue vomited, and therein continued till the time of his dispossession as was generallie thought by all the standers by. for in a trice he was sodenlie thzowen over, by what motion they wich were then pzesent could not conceine by anie humane experience, or pzactize.

Decemb. 3.

the running
swelling.

10. Thomas Graie of Graies Langlie in the countie of Leicester Esquire, swozne, and examined saith that about the 3. daie of Decemb. last. he was in the house of one Cooper Clarke of St. Maries in Rott. wherein he sawe W. Som: lying vppon a bed, being hold by sandzie persons, at his feete, and also at his head: so that it seemed vnto this deponent thereby that he was in some fit but by the countenance of his face it seemed to this Examinat, that he the said Som: did but dissemble. wherevppō this Examinat considering the strange report wich he had heard by diuerse credible persons concerning matters in fact done by the said W. Sommers in the time of his possession, and dispossession desired of God in his heart that some manifest token might be shewed vnto him this Examinant for his better vnderstanding of the truth in that behalfe. And immediatelie he sawe a mouing vnder the vppermost couering of the bed (not far distāt from the smal of the said W. Som: leg) wich late in a round lump panting: wich this Examinat perceiuing pointed at, ad said to the standers by, what might this be: wherevppō one of them said it is his foote: then it was answered by those that satt vppon the beds feete, thus: We haue his feete here, and doe hold them. Then this deponent for the better vnderstanding thereof laid his hand vppon the said lump, and felt it moue, and clasping his hand together, he felt that it veilded, as a tre, or winde, and opening his hand againe it filled the same in verie full manner: And this Examinant taking awaie his hand, sawe the clothes sette verie

sofalle

softlie downe, like as a bladder being blowne full of winde fallerh together after it is pricked: and immediatlie the like moving was on the other side of the said W. Som: and this deponent seeing it saide (laine his hand uppon the place, where befoze it was) here it was euen now: and at that verie instant this deponent (without moving of his hands) sensible felt something vnder the clothes part verie fast in the palme of his hand, like the foote of a kiling, or such a thing. pating like the foote of a kiling.

11. Thon Wood of Lenton in the countie of Nott: clerk, Sworne, and examined saith, that vppon Fridaie being the 17 of Februa. laste. he being crediblie informed that W. Som. was verie miserablie toymented, and piteouslie vered with most strange fits, was desirous to visit him: and to that end going with some other of his friends to the house of Robert Cooper clerk of St Maries in Nott: aforesaid, where the said W. Som: then was at this coming thether. and this Examinant found him in a fit. wherein he perceived that 3. or 4. men had inough to doe to hold him: and this Examinant thincking with himselfe that it was impossible that a boie of his age, and strength, should in such wise toile 3. or 4. lustie fellowes, being desirous to knowe whether his strength was such as they pretended, or not: in another of his fits which lasted from betwene 9. and 10. of the clock, vntill it was past twelue, this Examinant was desirous to deale with him himselfe for satisfaction of his own minde: and to the end he might haue the better aduantage (as he thought) he stepped behinde him as he was sitting in a chaire. and got fast hold of the byawnes of his armes, as though he would haue pintoned him. But when this Examinant perceived that he could not hold him, but that he would slip from him, whether he would or not, he was inforced to let goe his holde there, and with his fingers fast locked one into another. so that he could not anie waie slip fro him as befoze, by reaso both his armes vnder his armes were fast closed about his bodie, he so held him: but the said S: so laboured this Examinant. that both his hat fell of from his head, and his cloake from his back with struggling with him. But when the standers by sawe that this deponent was almost overcome with striving with him: two of them laide hold on him with him, the one, by the one leg, and the other by thother leg, and this Examinant still at his bodie: who so belaboured them all for the space of an houre, or therabout, as that in the end they were all breathles, and constrained to giue place to others standing by. Wherevppon this Examinant presentlie stepping befoze him vppon purpose to see whether he either panted, or drew his breath, short, or not, found him with his eyes shut, and his mouth, and lips fast closed: and so far from panting, as that this Examinant could not perceive him drawe his winde: and where as they all were verie hott, and this Examinant in a verie great sweet, he for his part neither sweet, neither yet had so much as anie rednes in his cheekes. Afterwarqs this. Extraord. strength. ext. strength no panting. nor rednes.

Examinant hearing that it was noised abroade, that the said W.
 Som. had confessed that al that ever he had done was counterfeited
 and that he was delivered to Thon Cooper, and Nicholas Shep-
 herd as his keepers: for triall of the truth, and learning also that the
 said W. Som. was with his said keepers . at Lenton: this Exa-
 minant was desirous to talke with him to the end that he might
 make triall whether he counterfeited, or not: for he thought with
 himselfe: that if he did counterfeit he could remeber something that
 this Examinant did vnto him, considering that he never came at
 him but once. And to the end no exceptions might be taken against
 this Examinants words, he requested his neighbour Mr Forster a
 verte honest man, and one fearing God, to accompanie him therher
 telling him befoze hand the end of his going: who willinglie went
 with him. When this Examinant came vnto him, after they had gi-
 ven ouer theyz worke, and all the workmen were departed: he asked
 leaue of his saide keepers that he might talke with him the sayd
 W. Sommers not secretlie, but openlie, which request being
 graunted, openlie before the said Mr Forster, and his said keepers
 this Examinant asked him first whether he did remember that
 he was euer with him in anie of his fits? he answered, he did:
 then this Examinant asked him if he could remember anie thing
 that he did vnto him: he answered, he could: being asked by this
 Examinant, what it was he did, he sayd, that he nipped him by
 the finger with his thumb naile, ad with that made a signe with his
 owne naile, vppon his owne finger, saying pou nepped my fingers
 thus. but this Examinant answering it was an vnt ruth that he
 spake, he willed him in the name of God to shame the Devill in
 speaking the truth: for said this deponent) everie lie is of the
 Devill. Whereto the sayd Sommers answered, that in deede
 he did not nip his finger: but (sayd he) pou did bend my fin-
 ger thus: and with that he buckled his finger with his owne
 hand: to the end sayde he pou might trie whether I had anie
 sense, or feeling, or not. This Examinant likewise affirming
 that to be an vnt ruth alsoo: Exhorted him agayne in the feare of
 God to speake the truth: then after he had pawsed a pretie space,
 this Examinant asked him the thirde time what he did, and then
 he answered directlie, and said, if pou did not so vnto me, I can-
 not tell anie thing that pou did. When this Examinant perceiued
 he could not remember anie thing that he did, after a short exhorta-
 tion vsed vnto him to serue, and feare God, he went awaie, with Mr
 Forster: and when they were gone as far as a man maye robe an
 arjowe, his sayd keeper Thon Cooper called vnto this Examinant
 saying, Mr Wood, Mr Wood, the lad remembreth, nowe what pou
 did. And this deponent asking him what it was, his sayd keeper
 answered that the lad said he read of a booke and prayed ouer his
 sister lying on a treble bed: but when he this Examinant had an-
 swered that to be an vnt ruth also: for (saide he) witnes all that
 were

No remem-
 brance.

were in that house I touched no booke in that house that daye, he answered againe after a litle space, that althoughe he read not ouer her, yet he prayed ouer her: whereunto this Examinant answered, that he but gessed at that, (as he thought) because he might well knowe that no Christian man seeing them in such extremities could forbear to praye for them, and thus they left them.

12. Thon Strellie of the councie of Nottingham Gentleman, swozne, and examined, deposeth, and saith that he being desirous to see William Sommers of whom he had heard strange reports of being possessed with a Devill, and dispossessed, and as it was thought repossessed againe, came to the house in Nottingham where the said Sommi: was kept about the 18 of Februarie, where finding him in one of his fits in the presence of Thon Doxrell, and W: Aldred preachers of the word of God with others, the said So. amongst manie other strange things, did shewe himselfe of that great strength, that this Examinant with 3 others could scarce hold him: but that he made them all to sweat in great abundance, the said Som. neyther sweating, nor breaching to thei: perseverance, and so for that time he left him. And coming vnto him on Weddaie the 20. of Februarie in the presence of the parties aboue named with others finding him verie well to thei: thinking, and exhorting him out of the word of God, he was on the sundaine throwe from the place where he sate with his head in such violent manner knocked to the furthest post of the chimneie, as they thought his neck had bene broken: being of so great weight as they thought was impossible for anie naturall bodie: and being laid vppon a bed, and lying in his fit about halfe an houre, manie straunge things were seene, as his neck being doubled vnder him, being (as it seemed) tormented in his inward parts, with one of his legs being of a verie massie weight: a litle thing seene to move in diuers parts of his bodie, swelling the bodie, and rising into severall parts of the face, to the bignes of a crab or wallnut. and after coming to himselfe againe, and continuing well a small time was on a sodaine cast into the spere in the presence of them all: and being sodenlie taken out without anie hurt to him, by the spere being of weight as aforesaid, manie strange things appeared in thei: presence, as foaming, wallowing, gnashing his teeth, striking, roaring, and seeming to be stragellie tormented in his bodie with the same swelling through his bodie, and face as before uttering in his trance diuerse strange speeches, his mouth wide open his tongue drawne into his throte, (but not speaking in that time) and other things which be nowe out of memorie.

13. Richard Dee of Nott. butcher, swozne, and examined deposeth and saith, that on sondate at night (being as he thinketh) the 6. of November, he came to the said So. to watch with him about 9. of the clock at night, and found with him Mr Westfeild, and others and betwene 3. and 6, a clock in the morning heard a voice saying

ext: strength.

4 vvith holding, abundantie the sweating, he not beating.

Feb. 20.

Cast against the polle of the chimneie.

Exceeding massie.

neck doubled.

one leg verie massie.

the running swelling.

Cast into the fire.

speech his mouth vvid open.

blacknes in
his eie.

the running
swelling.

Face turned
directlie,
backwards
his bodie
not moving
eyes great as
beasts eyes.

leg crooked
with fals.

Yet by no
meanes to
be streigted,
mouth strā-
gelie draune
aside.

tongue big
as a Calves.
Laughter
strange &
the skiking.

Cast into the
fire vn hurt.

ext: strength
6 or mor
scarrelie able
so hold him

not panting

Blasphemie.

exceeding
sweete
smell.

Dead to
their see-
ming an
houre &
halfe.

cold as Ice
face & hāds
blak.

that he would have his right eye, & then he would have his left: And immediatlie a great blacknes was in his left eye, the voice being (as he thinketh contrarie to his naturall voyce. And this Examinant further sayth that a dape or two befoze, and sundrie o- ther tynes this Examinant did see a swelling in his armes, and legs, (they being naked) to the bignes off a walnut, and removing from place to place into his bodie, and that he felt it in his bellie to the bignes of a 6. ycn: browne lofe, and that it was so hard that he could not p^{re}ffe it downe with his hand: which this Examinant assayed to doe by putting his hand vnder the bed clothes. This deponent also sayth, that he hath seene him stand, and turne his face directlie backwards, not moving his bodie: and that his eyes were as great as beasts eyes, readie as he thurketh to start out of his head.

And further sayth that he hath seene him fallē downe befoze them, and that one of his legs would be crooked with his fall, and that this examinant hath assayed to pull his leg strep^gth out, but could not by anie wayes move it. And that he hath seene him drawne his mouth verie strangelie to one side, so as he imagineth could not be done by anie naturall course for that he did never see anie doe the like. And that his tongue would be thrust out of his mouth to the big- nes of a calves tongue. This Examinant further sayth, that he hath seene him laugh verie strangelie, and sodenlie strich like a swine when he is in sticking, ad wallowe, gnash his teeth, foame at mouth verie strangelie, and be (as he thought) senseles, and these things were done befoze Mr Dozrells comming vnto him, ad that the sayd Som: would be violentlie cast into the fier, standing from the fire; a pard, and halfe of: and none of his clothes burnt, or happe singed.

And further this Examinant sayth that the sayd Som: in mante off his fits, did shewe extraordinarie strength so as sometimes 3. sometimes 4. sometimes 6, sometimes moe could scarrelie hold him, and keepe him downe, and during his sayd fits he was not p^{re}ceived to pant, or blowe moze then if he had not streined his strength, or struggled at all. and this Examinant further sayth, that from the sayd Sommer there came a big voyce, v^oterring these words, that there vvas no God, that he vvas God. that he vvas king & prince of darknes. And in saying of the Lords p^{ra}yer, he could not be p^{er}swa- ded to sape lead vs not into temptation, but lead vs into temptation. And also he sayth that he hath felt such exceeding sweete smells in the roome where the sayd Sommer was, that he, this Exami- nant could not endure the same for the exceeding sweetness thereof.

14. Elizabeth Willward of the towne of Rott: spinster, swoz- ne, and Examined, sayth that the Saturdape in which Mr Doz- rell came to the towne, the sayd William Som: was extremelie tormented, in such sorte as he lape for an houre, and halfe for cleane dead to the^r Judg^{me}nt being senseles, speechles, ad without breath to the^r sight, on which tyme p^{re}senslie he was as cold as Ice,

and hands black annaturallie, the rest of his bodie being covered which they could not see. And though they gave him Aquavita, and other comfortable things to revive him, yet they could not in all that tyme: and his bodie so heavie as that they could not heave it up. And the first word he uttered was this Dorrell comes, Dorrell ^{Masse,} comes, he vvill have me out, but I vvill come agayne for. Noottingham and Lenton are jollie tovvnes for me. And she further sayth, that the first tyme she called anie of thez neyghbours in to help him, she heard a thumping, or knocking in his bed: and she putting her hand into his bed, felt the sayd knocking (as she thought) at a hal- ^{a fearefull knocking,} lowe place aboue the chest of his bodie: which knocking she heard as she went downe the staires being so fearefull as she durst not stape aboue with him.

15. John Ware of Plumtree in the countie of Nottingham Clerk, ^{15.} swozne, and examined deposeth, and sayth that he came to the towne of Nottingham on the Mondaye which was the daie of the exercise of fasting, and prayer for William Sommers, about 9. off the Clock the forenoone: and hearing the exercise in hand at the house of one Smale, went thither about 10. of the Clock to heare what was done, and found Mr Dozrell, and Mr Aldredge, and diverse other there, where they continued till the houre of 3. of the Clock in the afternoone in preaching, and prayer: and that the preasse was so great that he could not come to the sight of the hope till about the sayd houre of 3. of the Clock, and then he sawe the hope lie grobeling vpon his face vpon the bed, and a certayne swelling or rising vnder his clothes to the bignes of a mouse: which removed from place ^{the running swelling.} to place, to diverse parts off his bodie. and this Examinant also sayth that he heard a thumping, or knocking in the hopes bed in three severall places at once, and he putting his hand into the bed ^{a knocking in 3. severall places at once,} felt it sensiblie knock vnder his hand: and that he was perswaded it was not the hopes hands: because they could not reach so lowe.

16. John Clerk off the towne off Nottingham Cordwinder, ^{16.} swozne, and examined deposeth, and sayth, that on Sondaye being the 6. th off November (as he remembzeth) coming to wards the Church, of Sint Maries in Nottingham, and hearing the hope (meaning William Sommers) was in some torment went into the house off Thomas Porter, and found the sayd hope in a fit in which he uttered to one Edward Garland, these words, vs. Edward Garland art thou there, howve doeth thy children, I vvill have one of them, even the youngest, to which the sayd Garland answered I defie the Devill: for he can have no power off me, nor my children.

And this Examinant sayth, that after a litle tyme, the hope came to his senses, and then being asked whether he would rise, he answered

the running
syelling.

Members
inflexible,
and, heaue.

answered, he would: ad so the clothes being taken of this Examinant sawe in his brest being in his shirt a swelling, or rising to the bignes off a rat: which this Examinant tooke hold off: and found it as soft to his feeling as a downe pillowe, and he thincking to hold it fast, it presentlie avopded, and then the bove sayd it was gone downe into his leg. And this Examinant sayth, that he sawe him at sundrye tymes, when divers of his members, as his legs, armes, and others were inferible, and exceeding heaue, above nature, as ppon. And this Examinant being asked to what purpose he came to see the boie: he said he came to be perswaded in his opinion hearing such straunge things, and accidents.

17.

Speech,
mouth shut,
the running
syelling.

17. W. Dunt of the towne of Mott: baker, sworne, and examined, deposeth, and sayth, that he did see W. Sommers in his fit lying for dead to his thincking in which fit he did heare a voice proceed from the sayd Sommers and his lips were close shut, and did neyther moove his lips or jawes to his understanding, and he continued so speaking by the space of a quarter of an houre. And this deponent further sayth that in the same fit he did see a thing to the bignes of a wallnut running in the flesh of the said W. Sommers about his face, forehead, and eyes, and so run about his face to his eare.

**The severall answers of W. Powre,
Thon Pepper, Thon Cooper, an Nicholas
Shepherd vpon certaine questions pro-
pounded unto them for the discoverie of the
practizes with W. Som. for the causing him
the said W. Som. to affirme his dissembling
of possession.**

William Powre of the towne of Nottingham Gentleman
sworne, and examined saith, that Thon Cooper being demaunded
by this Examinant whether the sayd W. Som: was a counterfeit,
or no, did saie, that when Mr. Dorell did cast out the Drbill, he
had not appoynted him anie place to goe unto: but we have sent
him into a heard of swine at the townesend: or words to that effect:
which words were spoken about amonets past,

2. Thon Pepper of the towne of Rott. rallow, sworne, and examined saith, that he did heare the said Thon Cooper sape, that when Mr Dozell had cast out the Devill, he had not appoynted him anie place to goe into: but nowe that I have cast him out. I have sent him into an heard of swine, and nowe he will com no more: or words to that effect.

3. Thon Cooper of St Thons in Nottingham and one of the keepers of the sayd Sommers sworne, and examined saith that he did not knowe ante which perswaded the sayd Sommers to confesse himselfe to be a dissembler saving this Examinant himselfe threatened to whip him: he also confesseth that one Wilkinson, and two others came to the house of St. Thones about 8. or 9. of the clock at night: and he thincking it an unlawfull houre would not suffer them to come to the hope: but saide he would indite him, if he came vpon the ground, for that he was not his frend. This Examinant also saith, that he never knewe one Nicholas Aire to have access to the hope, to his knowledge. This Examinant further saith, that it is true, there was an ointment brought to the said hope by Nicholas Shepheard one of his keepers, appoynted thereunto by William Gregorie the Maiors Clerck: with which the sayd Sommers was annoynted: bycause he might be the more nimble to shewe his tricks: but words of charme he heard not at the annoynting of the sayd hope. He also confesseth he said that Mr Dozell hath cast out the Devill (as he saith) but hath not assigned anie place to goe into: but he had sent him into Collwich hill.

This Examinant also saith that the sayd hope since his coming to St Thons had no fits, save at 3 times: one immediatlie after his coming: and the last when some of the wives came to the house. and then he fell downe: but after this Examinant had put the sayd wives out of the house, and given him some words of Correction, he presently arose.

4 Nicholas Shepheard of the towne of Nottingham Fletcher, sworne, and examined saith, that he never knewe of anie promises made, or other matter vsed to the sayd hope to make him to sape, that he countersepted: but that in one of the hopes fits: he himselfe created to have a paire of pincers to pinche him by the toes, if he vsed those tricks: but remembzeth that Mr Jackson promised that if he would declare the truth, he would be good unto him, and helpe him to service in London. This Examinant also confesseth

that Mr Hurt, Mr Jackson, and Mr Freeman Aldermen, and
 William Gregorie the Mayor's Clerk desiring to have the bope to
 vse some of his tricks answered, that his leg was so sore he could
 not shewe them: and the sayd Gregorie commaunded that
 some ointment might be giuen him: which this
 Examinant did. and the boie annointed his
 knee, and gaue some to his sister
 to annoint her finger which
 was streyned.

(...)



A BREIFE

A BREIFE OF THE FORESAID DEPOSITIONS, proving that William Sommers of Nottingham of the age of 20. yeares was possessed by Satan, & did not counterfeit as some pretend,

- 1 **T** Here seemed to run along his leg, and thence into his toe: bellie throate, tongue, cheeke, eie, & other parts a lump sometimes lesse, sometimes bigger then an eg: being soft, deposed by eleue. 16. 17.
- 2 The lump being in his leg, it was heauie, & inflexible like yron by 4. the 6. 12. 14. 16.
- 3 He had such extraordinarie strength that sometimes 3. 4. 5. 6. or moe, were skarce able to rule him deposed by 6: the 2. 6. 9. 11. 12. 13. th.
- 4 When 4. or 5. struggled with him so as they were wearied, he did not sweat pant, or chaunge colour. deposed by 3. the 9. 11. 13.
- 5 He wallowed, gnashed with his teeth, stared with his eies, & foamed at his mouth excessivelie: by 5. the 2. 5. 9. 12. 13.
- 6 There seemed to run vnder the coverlet where he laie as it were kitlings to the number of 4. or 5 deposed by 3. the 2. 6. 10.
- 7 His face, and mouth fearefullie distorted one lip toward one eare & the other toward thother deposed by 3. the 5. 6. 13.
- 8 His face turned directlie backward not moving his bodie at all, by 2. the 6. 13.
- 9 His neck doubled vnder him. by Richard Mee. the 13.
- 10 His bodie doubled, his head betwene his legs, sodenlie plucked round like a round browne loafe, cast vp like a ball from the bed 3. or 4. times together, halfe a yard highe. deposed by Ioane Pic. 6.
- 11 Being cast into the fyre against the wals, & yron bars of the chimneie with great violence, & there liing some time, he received no apparance of hurt at all, deposed by 3. the 6. 12. 13.
- 12 His boie seemed to be extended to the height of the tallest mā whē once he ondevoured to hang himselfe, deposed by Ioane Pic 6.
- 13 He told of diuerse things done in his absence, without notice giuen by anie person: deposed by 2. the 6. & 13.
- 14 Strange speeches vttered by him in his fits, in a strange voice, that he was his, that he was God, Christ, & a King, that he made Baptisme & I wil vse W: Som. tongue, & member for 3. daies; EGO SVM

1 **REX, EGO SUM DEVS:** that there vvas no God, that he
vvas King & Prin-ee of darknes. Also before Mr Dor. had seene him
he saide Dorrel comes; Dorrel comes he vvil haue me out, but I
vvil com againe; for Nott. & Lenton are jollie tovvnes for me. de-
posed by the 2. 7. 13. 14.

35 Being recovered out of his fits, he knevve nor vvhat he had said,
or done by the 6. 11.

36 In his fits, strange smells vv ere in the place vvhere he laie, by the 6.
& 13.

37 A strange knocking perceived about his bed in his fits. his both
feete & hands being held vnmov eable. by 4. the 2. 6. 14. 15.

38 He cried hideouslie sometimes like a bul, beare, lvvine. & in a smal
voice vnpossible to be counterfeyt, by 3. the 2. 9. 13.

39 His leg vvould be crooked vvith his safs. & remaine inflexible,
by 2. the 1. 13.

40 He spake in a continued speeche, his mouth being vvide open, his
tongue dravven into his throat, neyther lips, nor chaps moving. by
4. the 6. 7. 8. 12.

41 He spake a quatter of an houre together his mouth being close
shut. by the 17.

42 In his fits, his temples, & pusses did not beat, he laie for dead, cold
as Ice. deposited by the 9. 14.

43 His eie vv as black, & chaunged colour in his fits. by the 3. 4. 13.

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